



0. The Freedom Rides - 1961 - Story Preface

1. President Harry S Truman desegregates the armed forces - 1948

2. Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, KS - 1954

3. Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955

4. The Little Rock Nine - 1957

5. The Freedom Rides - 1961

6. Sit-in Movement - 1960

7. March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom - 1963

8. The Civil Rights Act of 1964

9. Selma March for Voting Rights - 1965

10. Voting Rights Act of 1965

Boytton v Virginia (1960) which banned segregation in interstate travel, the southern states continued the practice. In April 1947 sixteen men, eight white and eight black from the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) determined they would travel by bus throughout the south to prove that the bus companies continued to discriminate. Their two-week Journey of Reconciliation traveled through Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. They were arrested several times, but emboldened by the publicity their campaign was drawing.

In 1961 James Farmer, the executive director of CORE, decided to replicate the 1947 trip. A gender and racially mixed group left for the Freedom Rides on May 4. This time the group journeyed throughout the deep south where they were met with tremendous violence. In Anniston, Alabama the group was met with a mob of white men with clubs, knives, and bats. Their bus was fire bombed and several of the Riders were severely beaten. In Birmingham and Montgomery Alabama, the Freedom Riders again met some of the ugliest violence in the modern day freedom movement. By then their bravery and determination had captured world wide attention and forced the President Kennedy and his administration to engage with the movement.

When they entered Jackson, Mississippi, there was no violence but many of the Freedom Riders were arrested. They were locked up in the infamous Parchman Prison under squalid conditions. The rides continued into the summer in spite of pleas from the Kennedy administration for a cooling off period. As each group was arrested another group of Freedom Riders took its place aiming to fill the jails and force the ICC to comply with its own desegregation order.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/The-Freedom-Rides-1961-The-Big-Ten-Crucial-Events-in-the-Modern-Civil-Rights-Movement>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/The-Freedom-Rides-1961-The-Big-Ten-Crucial-Events-in-the-Modern-Civil-Rights-Movement>

Questions 2 Ponder

Freedom Rides Had What Purpose?

If the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) desegregated buses and bus terminals in the case of *Morgan v Virginia* (1946), what was the purpose of the Freedom Riders?